

Appl. No. 09/920,756
Amdt. dated September 27, 2007
Reply to Office Action of 06/27/2007

Remarks

The present amendment responds to the Official Action dated June 27, 2007. The Official Action rejected claims 1-11 and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Paul U.S. Patent No. 6,687,817 ("Paul") in view of Williams U.S. Patent No. 5,945,988 ("Williams"). This ground of rejection is addressed below. Claims 1, 4-6, 17, 18, 20, and 22 have been amended to be more clear and distinct. Claims 12-16 have been previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-11 and 17-23 are presently pending.

The Art Rejections

The sole ground of rejection is based on Paul in view of Williams. As addressed in greater detail below, Paul and Williams do not support the Official Action's reading of them and the rejection based thereupon should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Further, the Applicants do not acquiesce in the analysis of Paul and Williams made by the Official Action and respectfully traverse the Official Action's analysis underlying its rejection.

The Official Action rejected claims 1-11 and 17-23 as unpatentable over Paul in view of Williams. In light of the present amendments to claims 1, 4-6, 17, 18, 20, and 22, this ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, addresses conducting an automated search for and retrieval of computer system-specific configuration settings by the terminal. The automated search and retrieval comprises determining if first computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on an attached storage device accessible by the terminal through a direct connection between the

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terminal and the attached storage device. The direct connection provides a link between the storage device and a single terminal. If the first computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on said storage device, the first computer system-specific configuration settings are copied to the memory. The settings are directed from the storage device to the memory over a direct connection linking the storage device to the single terminal.

These limitations in the claimed combination are not taught and are not made obvious by Paul, Williams, or a combination thereof. Paul teaches a system for providing configuration information to a device newly joining a network. Upon its addition to a network, a new device multicasts a configuration request over the network. The request may be acted on by any device that may be listening for such a request. The device receiving the configuration request sends a configuration pending message to the device sending the request. The device sending the request then enters a listening state and the device receiving the request sends configuration data through a multicast. The device sending the request does not make any determination as to where and whether configuration information is available, but simply issues a request upon joining the network.

In addition, the request for configuration is transmitted over the network, and Paul does not teach and does not make obvious determining if configuration settings are available in a storage device directly accessible to the device joining the network through a direct connection between the device joining the network and the attached storage device, with the connection providing a link between the storage device and a single terminal. Paul requests and delivers configuration data only over a network, and does not address the possibility of delivering

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configuration settings through a direct connection as described. Paul describes a network as supporting multiple devices, with devices issuing messages that can be detected by all devices on the network, with the messages including identifiers allowing servicing of the correct device. Configuration settings may be delivered over a network by multicast distribution of a message over the network, with the destination devices identified, so that devices not identified in the message may ignore it. The use of a direct connection providing a link between a storage device and a single terminal, as claimed by claim 1, as amended, provides a convenient mechanism for delivery of configuration settings in cases in which such a device is available and a network connection is not available or is not desired, such as where security concerns dictate otherwise. It also simplifies delivery of configuration settings compared to multicast distribution over a network.

Williams does not cure Paul's deficiencies as a reference with respect to claim 1. Williams teaches a system allowing configuration of a home entertainment system according to user preferences, but does not teach and does not make obvious the automated search and retrieval of configuration information by a computer system. Claim 1, as amended, therefore defines over the cited art and should be allowed. Independent claims 4, 6, 17, 18, and 22, similarly address determination by a terminal as to the availability and location of computer system-specific configuration settings from a storage device providing a link between a storage device and a single terminal. These claims also therefore define over the cited art and should be allowed.

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Claims 5 and 20 address determining if a network connection is available and searching for configuration settings over a network if a network connection is available. Paul does not teach and does not make obvious determining if a network connection is available, because Paul comes into use only upon connection of a device to a network, so that the issue of whether a network is available does not arise. In addition, claims 5 and 20 address determining if configuration settings are available for retrieval from a specifically identified storage device through the network, and, if settings are available, transmitting settings to a specifically identified device to obtain the settings.

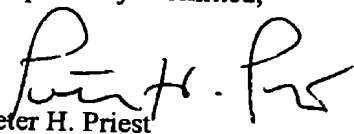
Paul does not teach determining if configuration settings are available for retrieval from a specifically identified storage device, and does not teach transmitting a request to a specifically identified device, but instead teaches requesting configuration settings through a multicast, that is, through a request transmitted to a plurality of devices, so that any appropriate device may deliver configuration settings. Determining if configuration settings are available from a specifically identified storage device, for example, the server 38 of the present specification, simplifies the process of locating configuration settings and increases convenience in situations in which a single source is used for delivery of configuration settings to a particular terminal over a network. Williams, as noted above, does not teach and does not make obvious the automated search and retrieval of configuration information by a computer system. Claims 5 and 20 therefore define over the cited art and should be allowed.

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Conclusion

All of the presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied references, withdrawal of the present rejection and prompt allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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